

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 05478 221657Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 /091 W  
-----075462 230424Z /15

R 221644Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8028  
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
USMISSION USBERLIN  
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 05478

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, GE, PINS, CZ, ASEC  
SUBJECT: GDR MEDIA TREATMENT OF EXPLOSION AT CZECH  
AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE IN EAST BERLIN

REFS: (A) 76 STATE 274647 (B) BERLIN 5453

1. EAST BERLIN PAPERS AUGUST 22 CARRY A TWO-  
SENTENCE ADN STORY ON BACK PAGES TO THE EFFECT THAT  
"ESCAPING GAS" CAUSED AN EXPLOSION AT THE CZECH  
AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE "ON THE WEEKEND" AND THAT  
"DAMAGE RESULTED." NO CONNECTION IS MADE BETWEEN  
THIS EVENT AND THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE CZECH INVASION  
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AND NO INDICATION GIVEN THAT THE EXPLOSION MAY HAVE  
BEEN MORE THAN ACCIDENTAL.

2. COMMENT: AS A POSSIBLE EXPLANATION FOR THE  
EXPLOSION WE NOTE THAT THE CZECH AMBASSADOR,  
FRANTISEK HAMOUZ, WAS (ACCORDING TO THE 1973 EDITION  
OF US BIO AVAILABLE HERE)"ONE OF THE SIGNERS OF

A PURPORTED LETTER TO MOSCOW CALLING FOR SOVIET  
HELP IN PUTTING DOWN THE DUBCEK FORM OF SOCIALISM,"  
AND THAT HIS RESPONSIBILITIES AFTER THE INVASION  
INCLUDED "THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TREATY ON THE  
TEMPORARY STATIONING OF SOVIET TROOPS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA"  
(REF A). HE MAY THEREFORE CONCEIVABLY HAVE BEEN SEEN  
AS AN APPROPRIATE TARGET BY EITHER CZECHS OR EAST  
GERMANS OPPOSED TO THE POLICIES WITH WHICH HE  
IDENTIFIED HIMSELF. AT THE SAME TIME, AND WITHOUT  
ANY FURTHER EVIDENCE, WE DO NOT DISMISS THE  
POSSIBILITY THAT THE EXPLOSION WAS CAUSED BY A GAS  
LEAK. END COMMENT. BOLEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, BOMBING, HOUSING, AMBASSADORS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978BERLIN05478  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780344-0263  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 274647, 78 BERLIN 5453  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 19 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1653244  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GDR MEDIA TREATMENT OF EXPLOSION AT CZECH AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE IN EAST BERLIN  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PINS, ASEC, SOPN, GC, CZ  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014